

Ellis Island

Ranger-Assisted Activity

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Ellis Island Immigration Museum
Statue of Liberty National Monument
New York, NY 10004



Immigrant Eyes

5th-8th Grade

On-Site Activity

Leaving Home

Looking at the chart, what are two reasons why immigrants moved to the United States?

Treasures from Home

Many passengers who immigrated to Ellis Island never saw their homeland again.
List five items that you may have brought to the United States.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Through America's Gate

- Ask a Park Ranger to look at a button hook. Looking over the button hook, what do you think that item was used for?



- Examine the list of diseases inspectors looked for at Ellis Island. What does a chalk mark mean? What type of disease might this immigrant (on this photo) have?

- During the legal inspection, to which two questions would you answer “No?”



Medical Inspection:

Write one word to describe your feelings here.

If you were detained (held back) for medical reasons, describe what happens to you during this time.



Visit the Dormitory:

Why would they keep you in a dormitory and how would you feel if you were kept there?



Starting a New Life

Explore the street signs in the Lower East Side. What immigrant group do you think lives in this neighborhood? What advantages do you think immigrants may have living in an area like this? Why did the immigrant form "Ghettos?"



Think of two similarities and two differences to how immigrants are processed at Ellis Island to how immigrants arrive today.

Showcase Your Family

What is your chosen heritage?

From where is your family?

What did your family bring with them?